

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 043090
ORIGIN ACDA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:PARM, XO

SUBJECT:US-USSR INDIAN OCEAN ARMS CONTROL TALKS:CONTINGENCY
Q'S AND A'S

REF: A. BERN 788, B. BERN 787

1. AGREED US-SOVIET PRESS STATEMENT CONCERNING FOURTH
ROUND OF INDIAN OCEAN ARMS CONTROL TALKS (REF A) WILL BE
RELEASED IN WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 21 (NINE P.M. LOCAL TIME).

2. ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING GUIDANCE, ON IF-ASKED
BASIS, TO RESPOND TO PRESS QUERIES:
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3. BEGIN TEXT:

Q. HAS THE SITUATION IN THE HORN AFFECTED THE COURSE OF
THE INDIAN OCEAN TALKS?

A. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOVIET UNION IN THE HORN ARE IN

OUR OPINION INCONSISTENT WITH THE GOAL OF THE TALKS AND WILL OBVIOUSLY AFFECT THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH TALKS ARE CONDUCTED.

Q. DID THE US SIDE PROTEST TO THE SOVIETS OVER THEIR ACTIONS IN THE HORN?

A. WE HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE HORN AND THE HIGH LEVEL OF SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE AREA WHICH WE CONSIDER INCONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSE OF THE TALKS. THE PURPOSE OF THE CURRENT TALKS IS TO REACH A STABILIZATION AGREEMENT LIMITING THE MILITARY FORCES OF BOTH NATIONS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

Q. HAS THE HORN SITUATION BLOCKED ALL PROGRESS IN THE TALKS?

A. IT HAS HAD AN INHIBITING EFFECT. SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE ON CERTAIN TECHNICAL ISSUES IN THIS ROUND.

Q. WHAT WAS THE SOVIET RESPONSE TO OUR EXPRESSION OF CONCERN?

A. THE SOVIET SIDE DISAGREED WITH US.

Q. WHEN WILL THE DELEGATIONS MEET AGAIN?

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A. THE DATE OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WILL BE FIXED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT, AND AS IN THE PAST, DETAILS WILL BE WORKED OUT IN THE CAPITALS. END TEXT. VANCE

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